



2021-2022 Return to Curl at the Ottawa Curling Club

SUBJECT TO CHANGE – LAST UPDATE JANUARY 31, 2021

If you have questions, please submit them to Dalal, Club Manager at manager@ottawacurlingclub.com

Introduction

This document outlines the Return to Curl policies and procedures that have been put into place at the Ottawa Curling Club (OCC) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The OCC goal is to prioritize the health and wellbeing of members and staff while maintaining the financial viability of the Club.

The OCC is following:

- The laws of the Province of Ontario (Reg. 364/20)
- Ottawa Public Health guidelines
- Suggestions from Curling Canada and CurlION

As regulations and recommended practices regarding COVID-19 are constantly changing, the OCC Board of Directors and Club Manager may update the policies and procedures outlined below. As such, this document is evergreen and subject to change. Members and rental leagues will receive updates as needed.

Vaccination Policy

On September 1, 2021 the Ontario Provincial Government [released a mandate¹](#) stating that as of September 22, 2021, Ontarians will need to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and provide their proof of vaccination along with photo ID to access certain public settings and facilities including:

¹ <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000779/ontario-to-require-proof-of-vaccination-in-select-settings>

- “Facilities used for sports and fitness activities and personal fitness training, such as gyms, fitness and recreational facilities with the exception of youth recreational sport”

In light of the regulation, The Ottawa Curling Club has the following policy, effective immediately:

- **All people entering the facilities of the Ottawa Curling Club must provide proof of full vaccination (two doses plus 14 days)**

As of January, as required by the province, all persons entering the club **must show provincial proof of vaccination status with QR code**. For clarity, **every time** someone enters the club, they must scan their government QR code... No QR code, no access.

Mask Policy

Per public health requirements, masks must be worn at all times in our facility, except when seated in the lounge while eating/drinking, or when actively participating in sport. The OCC continues to encourage wearing a mask on the ice.

Masks are an important part of mitigating the risk of spreading COVID-19.

- Warm side of the glass:
 - **Masks must be worn at all times, except when seated in the lounge while actively drinking or eating**
- Ice shed:
 - **Although not required while engaged in physical activity on ice, the OCC encourages all players to wear a mask while playing**

Players should maintain physical distance whenever possible, especially from other teams.

Financial Considerations

The Board feels confident that we can open this season and maintain the financial viability of the Club, although there may be impacts on our typical costs and revenue. If at any time the financial viability of the Club comes into question as a result of closure associated with COVID-19, the Board may choose to discontinue the season.

Additional costs to the club associated with COVID-19:

- Hiring of additional cleaning staff and cleaning supplies
- Purchasing of PPE for staff
- Purchasing hand sanitizer

Loss of revenue associated with COVID-19:

- Potential capacity limits in our facility
- Reduced revenue associated with the bar and kitchen due to restrictions
- Reduced overall revenue associated with elimination and restrictions on events and rentals

If the Club needs to be closed as a result of a COVID-19 outbreak or change in legal requirements (i.e. Ontario laws or Ottawa by-laws), the Board will evaluate the situation to determine if and what refunds may be made while ensuring the continued financial viability of the Club.

COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

Refund Policy

We are once again implementing a cut-off date of September 30, 2021 for members to obtain a full refund. After this date, we cannot guarantee full or partial refunds. This deadline will allow the Board to ensure we have adequate paid memberships to cover our operating costs for the coming year, especially given the fact that there are significant upfront costs incurred early in the season relating to the ice installation and other costs associated with opening the Club. The deadline also provides us with sufficient time to make final preparations for the season ahead.

Accessing the Club

- ***NEW* CONTACT TRACING AND COVID SELF-SCREENING**

As a part of the Public Health regulations in Ontario, we are required to screen everyone entering the Club. Two elements will facilitate this:

- Before entering the club, each member must self-screen by reviewing the questions posted at the door. If you have any symptoms that could be indicative of COVID 19, or feel at all unwell, you must not attend the club.
- As required by the province, all persons entering the club **must show provincial proof of vaccination status with QR code**. For clarity, **every time** someone enters the club, they must scan their government QR code... No QR code, no access.
 - To facilitate entry to the club, the CurlON contact tracing QR code will not be used for regular league operations.

- **All members must sign two waivers prior to first time entering the club**

1. **Appendix 2 - Declaration of Compliance - COVID-19**

https://ottawacurlingclub.ca/images/2021_AGM/RtC/Waivers/Appendix_2_-_Declaration_of_Compliance_-_COVID-19.pdf

2. **Appendix 3 - Curling Canada Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk Agreement**

(under the Age of Majority) https://ottawacurlingclub.ca/images/2021_AGM/RtC/Waivers/Appendix_3_-_Curling_Canada_Informed_Consent_and_Assumption_of_Risk_Agreement.pdf

3. **Appendix 4 - Curling Canada Release of Liability Waiver of Claims and Indemnity Agreement**

(over the Age of Majority) https://ottawacurlingclub.ca/images/2021_AGM/RtC/Waivers/Appendix_4_-_Curling_Canada_Release_of_Liability_Waiver_of_Claims_and_Indemnity_Agreement.pdf

- Should a member test positive for COVID-19, the Club will be following the advice of public health officials in navigating the situation. The safety of our membership, staff and community is of the utmost importance, and we will take all necessary steps to ensure we address the situation in a timely and effective manner.
- Members and rental leagues are advised that the OCC may close without warning for a couple of days or for the season for reasons related to COVID-19.

Facilities

- The Building
 - **Guests are now permitted in the Club with proof of full vaccination. Non-members can spare for \$20 per game, with payment made at the Bar. All Guests will need to register upon arrival in the CurlON QR contact tracing app.**

- Bulletin boards will not be used; all scores must be entered online and schedules plus other league information will be posted on the OCC website.
- Washrooms and locker rooms
 - Locker rooms will be open for the season; masks are required at all times. Additional information to be provided by the Club Manager. Members are also welcome to arrive ready to play. Upper lounge access will be provided for coats and boots storage to allow for additional spacing. As of Monday, November 1 the Coat and Boot room will be available. Indoor shoe storage is **not** permitted in this room. Shoe covers will be available.
 - At this time, locker rooms will be Members only. No rental leagues.
 - More frequent cleaning will be done in the washrooms.

Protocols

- **Game play protocols**
 - All league are reinstated to pre-pandemic formats (2 hour game time allotment, 2 sweepers, etc.)
 - o Standard sweeping rules return to league play
https://www.curling.ca/files/2019/02/Rule-Book-2018_General_ENG_CC_v2.pdf
 - o Please see our website for more details
 - League Overview: <https://ottawacurlingclub.ca/index.php/61-club-leagues/181-league-overview>
 - Club Rules: <https://ottawacurlingclub.ca/index.php/curling/club-rules>
 - All games will now start at the window end of each sheet.
 - Rocks will be cleaned by players before the game. Only touch your own rocks.
 - No handshakes or fist bumps, tap brooms instead or a friendly wave.
 - Starting next round, with the exception of Wednesday Cash League, Last Stone First End (LSFE) will no longer be predetermined. Leads shall choose a contactless option to determine which team has hammer or LSFE before their game (examples: bring your own coin, one round of rock-paper-scissors, stop watch – choose odd or even number, etc.).
- **On Ice protocols**
 - Enter the ice at the door near sheet one; exit at the door near sheet five.
 - On-ice scoreboards will be done by thirds only and they should sanitize before & after use.
 - Sanitize your hands before and after measuring. Only thirds can measure rocks.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in the Ice Shed.
 - Only the Ice Technicians will have access to their room.
 - Players should not touch or lean on ice maintenance equipment stored on the ice.
 - Players to ensure physical distancing whenever possible.
- **Team structure protocols**
 - Spares: The OCC Spare Policy is in effect, you can review on our website
<https://ottawacurlingclub.ca/index.php/curling/membership/28-club-info/194-sparing-rules>
 - Three person teams: Please contact our Club Manager, Dalal, if you are unable to find a fourth player for your team. Given the unprecedented circumstances presented by the pandemic, we are committed to remain as flexible as possible, though all teams should have four paid memberships.

- *To assist with connecting teams to teammates, we have a [Free Agent Listing](https://ottawacurlingclub.ca/index.php/member-s-home/other/free-agent-listing) page on our website that is updated regularly*
<https://ottawacurlingclub.ca/index.php/member-s-home/other/free-agent-listing>
- **Two person games:** Due to the exceptional circumstances created by the pandemic, we recognize that the frequency of members being required to miss a game may be higher than normal, and finding a replacement player may be challenging. As such, teams will be permitted to play regular league games with two players without penalty. Player 1 shall throw lead and third stones, Player 2 shall throw second and skip stones.

Bar & Lounge

The bar represents a significant source of revenue to the Club. Should you feel comfortable, your support of the bar is appreciated. To that end, we have replaced and upgraded the roof air conditioning/HVAC filtration system that supports the lounge. For the lounge we now have high quality physical filtration and added a UV-C light which is installed specifically to kill bacteria and viruses that pass through the new system.

The lounge is set up with five tables and eight chairs per table. There are four guest tables with four chairs. Please do not rearrange the furniture. Should you feel comfortable doing so, please proceed to a table marked with your sheet number after your game.

- Please leave your mask on while ordering. Tradition of winning team offering first round of drinks resumes.
- Bar tabs are strongly recommended. Please contact Dalal, Club Manager to establish a tab. Payment by credit card, debit card, or cash will be available (Bartenders will be trained on safe handling of cash). Please ensure your Bartender has your name to charge your bar tab.
- The bar and lounge area will be thoroughly cleaned between each draw.
- Couches and viewing chairs have been removed.

Responsibilities of Members and Rental Leagues

- Masks are mandatory at all times in the Club, with the exception drinking/eating while seated in the lounge. Masks are encouraged while on the ice.
- Practice physical distancing as much as possible.
- Stay home if not feeling well – find a spare from your league if possible.
- Use the cleaning and sanitizing supplies that the Club will provide.
- Only touch your own equipment – brooms, stabilizers, delivery sticks, etc.
- Be patient with all staff and other players.

Thank you for your continued support